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ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1941, which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, has been restricted to essential matters, more particularly the compilation of figures for record purposes. The Minister has also drawn attention to the importance, on grounds of national security, of not publishing any figures from which the local population may be deduced. Such figures in this report are therefore strictly confidential to members of the Council and the Government departments concerned.

SECTION A.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid Year 1941) - 41,890.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

Total	582	Male	289	Female	293
Legitimate	542	"	265	"	277
Illegitimate	40	"	24	"	16
Birth rate per 1,000 Population					13.9
National Rate					14.2

Still Births.

Total	15	Male	11	Female	4
Legitimate	14	"	10	"	4
Illegitimate	1	"	1	"	0
Still Birth rate per 1,000 Population					0.35
National Rate					0.5

Deaths.

Total	447	Male	211	Female	236
Death rate per 1,000 Population					10.6
National Rate					12.9
Number of women dying in or	(a) From sepsis				1
in consequence of childbirth	(b) From other causes..				3

Death rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births:-

(a) From Sepsis	1.67	National rate	0.48
(b) From other causes	5.02	" "	1.75
(c) Total	6.69	" "	2.23

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.

Total	25	Male	16	Female	9
Legitimate	20	"	13	"	7
Illegitimate	5	"	3	"	2

Death rate of Infants under One year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	42.9
National rate	59.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Male	Nil.	Female	Nil	Total	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	"	1	"	1	Total	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)	"	Nil	"	1	Total	1

	Causes of Death	M	F
	ALL CAUSES	211	236
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
2.	Measles	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	-	-
6.	Influenza	5	3
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	-	-
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	10	7
10.	Other tuberculosis diseases	2	1
11.	Syphilitic diseases	6	-
12.	Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	1	-
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	25	38
14.	Diabetes	-	3
15.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	17	35
16.	Heart disease	53	58
17.	Other circulatory diseases	5	5
18.	Bronchitis	12	10
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	8	11
20.	Other respiratory diseases	1	4
21.	Duodenal and gastric ulcer	4	2
22.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years).	-	1
23.	Appendicitis	-	-
24.	Diseases of liver, etc.	-	-
25.	Digestive diseases	6	8
26.	Acute and chronic nephritis	3	9
27.	Puerperal sepsis	-	1
28.	Other puerperal causes	-	3
29.	Premature birth	8	2
30.	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, and Infant diseases	8	1
31.	Road traffic accidents	6	4
32.	Suicide	2	2
33.	Other violence	14	15
34.	All other causes	13	12

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - SECTION B.

The following Tables show the total notified cases of Infectious Diseases during the past 8 years, the monthly incidence, age groups and incidence in the various parishes.

TABLE I.

	Total Noti- fied 1941.	Admit. to Hosp.	Deaths.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.
Small Fox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	48	39	-	93	54	40	53	40	126	52
Diphtheria	7	7	-	22	11	19	7	3	27	44
Enteric Fever	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Puerperal										
Pyrexia	9	3	1	2	5	7	7	3	4	3
Pneumonia	15	1	1	19	5	13	14	6	4	13
Erysipelas	6	2	-	7	10	9	6	9	8	8
Cerebro-Spinal										
Meningitis	6	5	1	10	-	-	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis										
and										
Encephalitis	18	18	1	8	-	-	2	-	-	-
Measles*	515	45	-	354	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough*	192	24	2	16	6					

Notifiable from October 1939.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever.	4	4	5	2	9	2	3	4	1	6	4	4
Diphtheria	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
Puerperal												
Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	1	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	3	4	1	1	1	2	-	2
Erysipelas	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal												
Meningitis	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis												
and												
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	4	2	-	-
Measles	13	36	110	128	88	74	59	7	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	5	11	27	37	31	29	29	6	6	2	8

TABLE III.

Showing Cases notified in Various Age Groups.

Total all Ages	0-4.	5-14.	15-24.	25-44.	45-64.	65 upwards.
Scarlet Fever	48	16	18	8	5	1
Diphtheria	7	1	4	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	4	-	3	-	-	1
Puerperal						
Pyrexia	9	-	-	6	3	-
Pneumonia	15	3	4	1	4	3
Erysipelas	6	-	-	1	2	3
Cerebro-Spinal						
Meningitis	6	1	-	2	2	1
Poliomyelitis &						
Encephalitis	18	3	13	2	-	-
Measles	515	157	338	9	8	3
Whooping Cough	192	103	88	-	1	-

TABLE IV.

Showing Cases of Infectious Diseases
occurring in each District in the Area

	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Fuerperal Pyrexia	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas	Cerebro- spinal Fever.	Polio- myelitis & enceph.	Measles	Whooping Cough
Burnham	10	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	66	24
Datchet	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	88	14
Denham	7	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	59	3
Dorney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Farnham	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	17	10
Fulmer	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	10	7
Gerrards Cross	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	30
Horton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hedgerley	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Iver	7	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	139	80
Stoke Poges	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	13	28	6
Taplow	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	32	4
Wexham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5
Wraysbury	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	2
TOTAL	48	7	4	9	15	6	6	18	515	192

TUBERCULOSIS

Table showing New Cases and Mortality
during 1941.

Age Periods	NEW CASES from Notifications				DEATHS				NEW CASES from Death Returns			
	Respira- tory		Non-Respira- tory		Respira- tory		Non-Respira- tory.		Respira- tory		Non-Resp- iratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0							1					
1			1	1								
5		1		1								
15	3	3	2		3	1		1	3	1		1
25	1	4			3	2			2	2		
35	1	2			2	1	1		1		1	
45	1	2			1				1			
55	2				1	2				1		
65	1	1				1						
	8	13	3	2	10	7	2	1	7	4	1	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 population - .47

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that, apart from the deaths due to Puerperal Causes, the figures compare favourably with the National Rates, which, from the national standpoint are in themselves very satisfactory.

The birth rate was 13.9 per 1,000 compared with 14.2 in 1940 and 15.4 in 1939. The corresponding figures for England and Wales being 14.2, 14.6 and 15.0.

Still births comprised 2.5% of the total births, the National figure being 3.5%.

In 1941 the Death rate was 10.6, the rates for 1940 and 1939 being 12.1 and 9.35. The corresponding National rates being 12.9, 14.3, and 12.1.

The infant Mortality rate was 42.9 compared with 58.2 and 37 in 1940 and 1939. The rates for England and Wales being 59, 55 and 50.

The Maternal Mortality rate for 1941 was 6.69 per 1,000 total births compared with 1.8 in 1940 and 0 in 1939. The corresponding figures for England and Wales being 2.23, 2.16 and 2.82.

The incidence of infectious disease compares very favourably with the National rates. The rate per thousand of the population for the Eton Rural district and England and Wales is set out below:-

	<u>Eton Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Scarlet Fever	1.14	1.47
Diphtheria	0.16	1.25
Typhoid Fever	0.0	0.03
Para-typhoid Fever	0.09	0.09
Pneumonia	0.36	1.25
Erysipelas	0.14	0.30
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.12	0.25
Measles	12.3	10.33
Whooping Cough	4.58	4.39

48 notifications of Scarlet Fever were received as compared with 93 the previous year. They were spread fairly evenly through the months of the year and throughout the district. The majority were of the prevailing mild type.

7 cases of Diphtheria occurred compared with 22 in 1940. In the latter part of 1940 immunisation of the school children against Diphtheria was commenced and during that year 1202 school children were treated. An intensive campaign was carried out during the summer of 1941 and by September all school children whose parents were willing had been immunised. In all, 3,675 school children have now been protected; each child receiving two injections of A.P.T. at an interval of one month.

By arrangement with the County Council, as the Eton Rural District is not a Welfare Authority, the immunisation of children under 5 is carried out by the Medical Officers of the County Council staff at the Welfare Centres. Children from this District may, however, attend at the two Clinics provided by the Slough Borough Council which are held at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, Slough, on Tuesdays at 10.15 a.m. and Fridays at 2.15 p.m.

During the months of June to October an outbreak of Infantile Paralysis occurred in the South Bucks area. In all, 45 definite cases were admitted to Hospital, 27 from the Borough of Slough, 17 from the Eton Rural District and 1 from the Urban District of Eton.

13 cases occurred in the Parish of Stoke Poges, 2 in Burnham and 1 each in Taplow and Datchet.

Of the 45 cases, 28 were school children and 13 different Schools were involved. Of the 17 cases from the Rural District, 11 were school children, 9 of whom attended the Stoke Poges School, while 3 were under and 3 were over school age.

Of the 45 cases, 10 were non-paralytic; of the 35 with paralysis, 15 had lesions confined to the cranial nerves, all but one of which made complete recoveries. 3 cases, all of which proved fatal, had paralysis of the cranial nerves and both upper and lower limbs; 1 had paralysis of the lower limbs and spine and a facial paralysis and has made a partial recovery. 2 had paralysis confined to one upper limb and 3 to one lower limb; in 4, both lower limbs were involved and 7 had paralysis of both lower limbs and one upper limb.

Of the 35 paralytic cases, 3 proved fatal, and of the remaining 32, 13 required subsequent orthopaedic treatment, which was carried out at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital through the kind co-operation of the Emergency Medical Service.

The tendency towards some grouping of cases in the Cippenham and Stoke Poges districts and the multiple cases in 4 households suggests infection from case to case, or by "carriers," but the closest investigation failed to reveal definite and conclusive evidence of this.

In two instances there were grounds for suspecting the source of infection to be healthy contact carriers; on the other hand, isolated cases occurred throughout the area without any apparent connection with other cases. In fact, if a map of the district is studied on which the cases are plotted, apart from some grouping in the Stoke Poges and Cippenham districts, the cases are seen to be scattered quite indiscriminately.

No article of food or drink could be incriminated. Flies were somewhat prevalent during the summer, which, except for a period during June and the first part of July, was not unduly warm or sunny.

During the outbreak, the intermingling and congregation of children was prevented as far as possible by the closure of schools in the affected areas and by the closure of the cinemas to the children, etc.

At the same time as the outbreak in the South Bucks area, a number of cases occurred in the adjacent district of Windsor and East Berkshire.

6 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were notified. 4 were admitted to the Cippenham Isolation Hospital, all of whom recovered. 1 was treated at home, and 1 which went to the Windsor Hospital proved fatal.

4 cases of Paratyphoid B. Fever were notified. 2 occurred in June and were young children, both of whom almost certainly contracted the disease from fish cakes. The other 2 cases occurred in the parishes of Burnham and Gerrards Cross - in neither instance could the source of infection be discovered.

Both Measles and Whooping Cough were somewhat prevalent during the year. 515 cases of Measles being notified compared with 354 the previous year, and 192 cases of Whooping Cough as against 16 in 1940. None of the Measles proved fatal but 2 deaths were recorded from Whooping Cough.

During the year 93 evacuees from the Eton Rural District were admitted to the Sick Bay at Fulmer Rise, as follows:-

Enuresis 8, Scabies 31, Impetigo 30, Eczema 1, Septic Spots 5, Psoriasis 1, Burns 1, Broken Chilblains 1, Fractured tibia 1, Chorea 1, Influenzal 'colds' 4, Ear discharge 2, Asthma 1, Bronchitis 1, Convalescing after Measles 3, Debility 1, Behaviour Difficulties 1.

During the year the following specimens from the Eton Rural District were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory:-

For Diphtheria Bacilli ..	126
For Haemolytic Streptococci	23
For Vincent's Angina	5
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	53
Blood for Widal reaction..	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	1
Water samples	21
Milk samples:	
Pasteurised Milk.. ..	8
Phosphatase Test.. ..	5

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Refuse Removal, cesspool emptying, etc.

Although labour and transport difficulties continued, a fortnightly collection of household refuse was maintained in those Parishes scavenged by the Rural Council. In the Parishes served by private Contractors in most cases it was not found possible to make a collection more frequently than once a month.

In August a new Dennis 10 cubic yard vehicle was provided for the Burnham-Taplow area.

Salvage.

Arrangements for the collection of salvage continued as indicated in the 1940 Report, but for various reasons some of the voluntary salvage depots have been closed. The following figures show the salvage collected and sold during 1941, which closely approximate those of 1940:-

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	229	4	-	956.	-.	-.
Rags	6	4	-	56.	-.	-.
Brass	-	1	2	1.15.	-.	-.
Aluminium	-	1	-	3.15.	-.	-.
Bones	7	11	2	25.	-.	-.
Black Scrap	13	14	1	26.	5.	-.
Destructor Scrap	127	6	-	178.	5.	-.
Lead	-	-	3	15.	-.	-.
Bottles	9	10	1	33.	5.	-.
Jars	7	4	-	18.	5.	-.
Mixed Metal	-	16	3	18.	-.	-.
	401	14	-	1,319.	5.	-.

Housing.

No statutory notices were served under the provisions of the Housing Acts.

Three statutory notices were served in respect of defects, etc. as provided by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Six licences authorising the occupation by homeless persons (due to enemy action) of houses subject to action under the Housing Act, 1936 were granted under the Defence Regulations.

Meat and Other Foods.

The Government Control scheme for livestock remains unaltered and the slaughterhouse situate at Gerrards Cross continues to supply the whole of the Rural District. The total number of animals slaughtered thereat was 11,054 as compared with 11,768 for the year 1940.

Meat and other Foods (continued).

The number of visits made for the purpose of inspection was 262. The following table gives details:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	1,533	409	612	8,094	406
Number examined	1,533	409	612	8,094	406
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	-	10	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	105	48	3	56	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	7.0	13.2	0.49	0.8	4.7
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	8	19	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	153	103	1	-	29
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.5	29.8	0.16	-	3.66

Other articles of food dealt with included:-

21 lbs. tinned meat
49 lbs. bacon
18 lbs. imported lambs' livers.
31½ lbs. margarine.
35 lbs. butter
146 lbs. rice
98 lbs. flaked rice
20 lbs. pork
One forequarter imported beef.
One carcase of a sheep.
20 tins fruit and vegetables.
1,497 eggs.

Milk.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order,
the following licences were issued:-

Dealers to sell T.T. Milk (including Supplementary)	16
Dealers to sell Pasteurised Milk	10
Dealers to sell Accredited Milk	1
To bottle T.T. Milk	1
To pasteurise Milk.. .. .	2

Eight samples of Pasteurised milk were examined in
the Town Hall Laboratory. All satisfied the prescribed test.

V.A.T. SPONG.

Medical Officer of Health.

